Amendment 2 'totalitarian'

Tony Marco, in his letter of Aug. 20 ("Gays are not disadvantaged"), continues to mislead the public regarding the nature of Amendment 2. He states once again that the purpose of Amendment 2 is to prevent gays and lesbians from having "special rights" or "protected class status." If this were indeed the purpose of this amendment, Colorado for Family Values would not have drafted the amendment to include the pernicious language prohibiting gays and lesbians from making any "claim of discrimination."

Amendment 2, without this "claim of discrimination" language, might actually say what Colorado for Family Values claims. However, this discrimination language renders the remainder of the amendment (including the "protected status" argument) meaningless — you certainly can't have "special rights" when you are prohibited from having the most basic rights to protest if you are arbitrarily fired from a job, evicted from your home, or refused service in a public place.

If Amendment 2 passes, gay and lesbian Colorado citizens will be the only group of Americans to be legislatively barred from asking for or receiving protection from basic discrimination. As even CFV will admit, basic non-discrimination protection in America does not require passing income or influence "tests." Basic protection from discrimination has traditionally been extended to diverse groups experiencing discrimination, including cases of religious, age, family or gender-based discrimination.

When quoting "authorities" on civil rights in his letter, Marco apparently overlooked Jack Langy Marquez, director of the Colorado Civil Rights Division. In a recent Colorado Statesman interview on Amendment 2, he stated: "It's a common practice now to discriminate against homosexuals" and that CFV took the Supreme Court's criteria on special privileges "out of context." "That's why this amendment to my mind is so pernicious," he said. "It attempts to twist civil rights laws around to exclude a particular minority group. That's a move toward a totalitarian type of government."

I would say to Marco and to Colorado For Family Values: If "special rights" are your concern, then you should have written an amendment only about "special rights," and not one that by its own language permits and promotes discrimination against American citizens and overturns lawful ordinances that protect only these basic rights.

The three existing Colorado city ordinances simply promote non-discrimination for many groups of people, they do not grant gays "status equivalent to legitimate ethnic groups." The statement by Marco that Boulder's ordinance calls for affirmative action for gays is simply not true, and Citizens Project will be happy to supply copies of the three Colorado ordinances to all who have not had an opportunity to read them and to discover Marco's misrepresentations of their contents.

Be aware, Amendment 2 is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Before grandma (and our basic sense of justice) should be devoured, we must vote "No" to this blatant attempt to create a second-class citizenry in America.

— **Amy Divine**
Colorado Springs

Both parties are to blame

I'm really worried about the direction our nation seems to be taking. I'm downright scared. Yes, it's true that the United States has economic woes, unemployment and rising health-care problems, but what I really fear is the continued evaporation of morality in this great country of ours.

When certain special interest groups hack away at the nation's moral fiber, and seem to have their way in denouncing God from nearly every phase of American life, something is wrong. When certain groups demand special treatment, but at the same time show disregard for the traditional values instituted by our Founding Fathers, something is wrong.

When members of the opposing political party seem to approve homosexual partnerships in one breath and in the next claim to support family values, something is wrong. When a candidate can so casually speak of a woman's rights, then imply that it's OK to kill a helpless child in her womb, something is wrong. When our elected officials (whom we pay with taxes) fail to earn their wages, i.e., allowed the S&L's losses, the past HUD fiasco, etc., something is wrong and they don't deserve to remain on the job. When those in government who are responsible for allowing such a tremendous deficit to happen, are not made accountable, something is wrong.

When members of both political parties continue to spend beyond a reasonable budget (by spending more than received and wasting much of the tax monies), it shows their lack of responsibility and this is definitely wrong.

I believe that politicians from both sides of the aisle are responsible for the mess mentioned above and it will take both sides to work together to repair the damage. But they have to get serious and do more than just "business as usual." Promises will not hack it; prudent action is needed.

I'm sorry to say that I can't vote for the Democratic candidate, and I must vote for George Bush. But I plead with both parties to clean up their acts and really mean it when they say: Let's get this country moving again. By the way, I'm a registered Democrat.

— **Donald A. Bowes**
Colorado Springs

Constitution defends religion

The Christian Reformation movement (1500s) believed The Word of God was the supreme authority, and that Christ had paid the price to set all believers in him free. All men are equal under the judgment of God and His laws, regardless of their family, wealth or political power. The law is what God said it is, not what a priest or judge says it is. Government, under God, was to serve and protect its free believers, not to rule them.

Most charters of our founding colonies affirmed God as the supreme authority. Our Ivy League universities were originally established primarily to train ministers of the gospel and to evangelize. The ideas of the Christian Reformation were taught in our universities and preached in our churches across the land. They justified God's given freedom for our new Nation, under God's authority.

To read the Constitution as the charter for a secular state is to radically misread history. The Constitution was designed to perpetuate our relationships with God. The First Amendment freedom from federal interference is not from religion but to protect the freedom of all those who would worship God.

Here freedom means you may rebel and/or deny God, but you may not prevent others from praising Him in government, in school, in work, in church, or at home.

— **John Stoody**
Colorado Springs

LETTERS WELCOME

The Gazette Telegraph welcomes letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and telephone number for verification. No unsigned letters will be published. The GT reserves the right to edit or to refuse to publish any letter.

Letters may be sent via personal computer at 636-0127. The maximum modem baud rate is 2400. Protocol is 8 data bits, one stop bit, no parity.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robert F. Burr, son of Robert M. and Betty M. Burr of 4119 Channing Place, recently received the Navy Commendation Medal. Burr was cited for meritorious service while serving aboard the submarine USS Aspro, with home port in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He is currently assigned to Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific, Pearl Harbor. He is a 1977 graduate of Mitchell High School and a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.

Kevin M. Charron has been commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Air Force Academy and awarded a bachelor of science degree. Charron is the son of Eileen E. Charron of 14315 Granby Road. He is a 1988 graduate of Rampart High School.

Marine Sgt. James R. Hester, son of Robert F. and Iva P. Hester of 2171 Calle Fontana, Fountain, was recently promoted to his present rank while serving with Headquarters Company, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan. He is a 1983 graduate of Fountain-Fort Carson High School.

Marine Pvt. 1st Class Valerie L. Simmons, a 1990 graduate of Big Sandy High School in Simla, recently graduated with honors from Marine Corps Recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. She was meritoriously promoted to her present rank in recognition of her performance.

John F. Radcliffe has been commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Air Force Academy and has been awarded a bachelor of science degree. He is the son of Thomas R. and Vivian C. Radcliffe of 2565 Shiprock Way.

Derek A. Abeyta has been promoted in the Air Force to the rank of first lieutenant. Abeyta, a space-systems operations officer at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., is the son of Gaspar L. and Marie V. Abeyta of 2535 Sunbird Drive. Abeyta is a 1986 graduate of Coronado High School and a 1990 graduate of the Air Force Academy.

Sheila A. Davis has been promoted in the Air Force to staff sergeant. Davis, a personnel specialist at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, is the daughter of Sylvia A. Beach and the step-daughter of Robert F. Beach, 270 Wallace St., Security.

Robert M. Ward has been promoted in the Air Force to the rank of major. He is a gastroenterologist at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Ward is the son of Robert and Consuelo Ward of 1406 N. Foote St. He is a 1978 graduate of St. Mary's High School and a 1982 graduate of UCCS.

Eric J. Barela has been commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Air Force Academy and has been awarded a bachelor of science degree. Barela is the son of Charles O. and Dorinda V. Barela of 55 McBurney Blvd. He is a 1987 graduate of Mitchell High School.

Wade C. Buxton has been commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation and awarded a bachelor of science degree. Buxton is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Jones of 4535 S. Valencia.

Laura B. Carmichael has graduated summa cum laude with departmental honors from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, and has been commissioned a second lieutenant through the Army ROTC program. She will serve in the Adjutant General's Corps in Germany. Carmichael is the daughter of retired Army Lt. Col. Boyd B. and Dorothy L. Carmichael of Colorado Springs.

Kent S. Currie has been commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Air Force Academy and has been awarded a bachelor of science degree. Currie is the son of Dempsey V. and Bernita V. Currie of 1202 Tesla Drive.

Brian G. Rall has been commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Air Force Academy and has been awarded a bachelor of science degree. Rall is the son of Ann L. Hornby of 998 Bayfield Way.

McCOY: Sean and Marisela, a girl, Aug. 13.
MEYER: John and Emma, a boy, Aug. 14.
HOOK: Blane and Susan, a boy, Aug. 16.
HARRIS: Gary and Brenda, a girl, Aug. 16.
RAFFERTY: Patrick and Renate, a boy, Aug. 17.
MYHRE: David and Susan, a boy, Aug. 18.
ZUFELT: Britt and Deborah, a girl, Aug. 18.
GATJEN: Erich and Tonya, a boy, Aug. 18.
BISSETT: Wayne and Lisa, a girl, Aug. 19.
WISEMAN: Melinda, a girl, Aug. 20.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Aug. 10

Joseph Avirett III, 35, and Schaana Ahrens, 24, both of Los Angeles.

Robert Benson, 34, and Michelle Kuffler, 28, both of 2809 Sage St.

Paul Bradley, 19, and Kelly Doxey, 21, both of 2868 Dublin Blvd. Apt. 272.

Robert Calvert, 38, and Joyce Konrad, 35, both of Monument.

Matthew Castaneda, 23, 45 Watson Blvd., and Melodie Watson, 23, 124 Kilgore St.

Jeffrey Czerwinski, 24, 4725 Garden Ranch Drive Apt. 107, and Wendy Osgood, 23, 8325 Snapdragon Drive.

Kyle Delp, 42, Norfolk, Neb., and Chae Owens, 37, 4439 Millburn Drive.

OBITUARIES

MARIDEE K. COOK, 69, died Aug. 22, 1992, in Colorado Springs. She had been a homemaker.

Mrs. Cook

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. today at Swan-Law Funeral Home Chapel, 501 N. Cascade Ave. The funeral will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the chapel, with the Rev. Vern Kildow officiating. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery.

Swan-Law Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Mrs. Cook was born July 4, 1923, in Mount Auburn, Iowa, to Howard M. and Lois P. (Alden) Kildow. She was married March 1, 1946, in Savannah, Ill., to Darold Cook, who survives.

Mrs. Cook had lived in the Pikes Peak area since 1952 and was involved with the Lighthouse Mission.

She also is survived by five daughters, Lois P. Grayson, Pam Hilton, Linda Vasquez, Joan Mills and Becky Shipe, all of Colorado Springs; three sisters, Joyce Whitman, Alice Stouffer and Eloise Brunotte; a brother, Vern Kildow; 22 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Silver Key, 2250 Bott Ave., Colorado Springs 80904.

MAUREEN MAE BUROUGHS, 72, of Colorado Springs, died Aug. 21, 1992, in Des Moines, Iowa. She was a home care provider for the elderly and a former legal secretary.

The funeral will be today at Salem Congregational Church Chapel, Scottsbluff, Neb. Burial will be at Sunset Memorial Park in Scottsbluff. Jolliffe Funeral Home, Scottsbluff, is handling arrangements.

Miss Buroughs was born June 11, 1920, in Scottsbluff to George and Mary (Schmidt) Peppler.

She had lived in Colorado Springs on two occasions, and also had lived in Texas.

She is survived by a son, Perry Buroughs of Houston; two daughters, Cherie Osborn of Las Vegas and Nanette Hall of Des Moines; and five brothers, Elmer Peppler of Greeley, Eddie Kelley and Alfred Wickman of Phoenix, Clarence Shirley of Spokane, Wash., and Archie Shirley of Oroville, Wash.